

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-30. (Canceled)

31. **(New)** An actuator unit, comprising
- a piezoelectric actuator (1) disposed in a hollow body (4),
 - the hollow body (4) being embodied elastically and prestressing the actuator (1),
 - a plurality of recesses (7) formed through the hollow body (4)
 - a first seam (31) in the hollow body extending parallel to the longitudinal axis (35), of the hollow body, and
 - at least one second seam (33) at least on a first end (17) portion of the hollow body (4) and located diametrically opposite the first seam (31).
32. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 31, further comprising a second seam (33), located diametrically opposite the first seam (31) on a second end (15) of the hollow body (4).
33. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 32, wherein the second seam (33) extends from the first end (17) to the second end (15) of the hollow body (4).

34. **(New)** An actuator unit, comprising

a piezoelectric actuator (1) disposed in a hollow body (4),
the hollow body (4) being embodied elastically and prestressing the actuator (1),
a plurality of recesses (7) formed through the hollow body (4),
a first seam (31) in the hollow body extending parallel to the longitudinal axis (35) of
the hollow body, and
a first recess formed at least on a first end (17) of the hollow body (4) and located
diametrically opposite the first seam (31).

35. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 34, further comprising a further recess (51), located
diametrically opposite the first seam (31) and on a second end (15) of the hollow body (4).

36. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 34, wherein one recess (53) each is provided on the
first end (17) and/or on the second end (15) of the hollow body (4), in the region of the first
seam (31).

37. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the hollow body (4) is joined on its first
end (17) to an upper cover plate (6) or to an adjusting disk (93).

38. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 34, wherein the hollow body (4) is joined on its first
end (17) to an upper cover plate (6) or to an adjusting disk (93).

Applicant: Friedrich BOECKING et al.
Docket No. R.304542
Preliminary Amdt.

39. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the hollow body (4) is radially fixed on its first end (17).

40. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 34, wherein the hollow body (4) is radially fixed on its first end (17).

41. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 39, wherein the hollow body (4) is fixed radially on its first end (17) in the upper cover plate (6) in particular by means of an annular groove (39) or a shoulder (37).

42. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 39, wherein the hollow body (4) is fixed radially on its first end (17) in the adjusting disk (93) in particular by means of an annular groove (39) or a shoulder (37).

43. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 39, wherein the hollow body (4) is secured by its first end (17) to the upper cover plate (6) by welding (41).

44. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 34, wherein the contacting of a piezoelectric actuator (1) located in the hollow body (4) is effected via the upper cover plate (6).

45. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 34, wherein the upper cover plate (6) is embodied in two parts (6a, 6b); and wherein a parting seam is present between the two parts (6a, 6b).

46. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 45, wherein the first seam (31) and the second seam (33) open into the parting seam of the upper cover plate (6a, 6b).

47. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 44, further comprising a ceramic insulator (43) electrically insulating the upper cover plate (6, 6a, 6b).

48. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 44, further comprising a securing clamp (45) or a securing cup holding the upper cover plate (6, 6a, 6b) together.

49. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 44, further comprising a flexible, plastic-bonded metal or a soft solder binding mean between the hollow body (4) and the piezoelectric actuator (1).

50. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the hollow body (4) is radially fixed on its second end (15).

51. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the hollow body (4) is joined on its second end (15) to a lower cover plate (5) or to a coupler housing (86).

52. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 51, wherein the hollow body (4) is fixed radially on its second end (15) in the lower cover plate (5) or in the coupler housing (86), in particular by means of an annular groove (39) or a shoulder (91).

53. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 51, wherein the hollow body (4) is secured by its second end (15) to the lower cover plate (5) by welding (41).

54. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the recesses (7) are embodied in bonelike shape and extend transversely to the longitudinal axis (35) of the hollow body (4).

55. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein a plurality of recesses (7) are located one behind the other in a plane (E_2); and wherein the plane (E_2) forms a right angle with the longitudinal axis (35) of the hollow body (4).

56. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 55, wherein there is an even number of recesses (7) in one plane (E_2).

57. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 55, wherein a plurality of planes (E_i) are provided with recesses (7); and that the planes (E_i) extend parallel to one another.

58. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 57, wherein the recesses (7) of two adjacent planes (E_1) are offset (23) from one another.

59. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 58, wherein the offset (23) of the recesses (7) of two adjacent planes is equal to half the repeat (21) of the recesses (7) in one plane (E_1).

Applicant: Friedrich BOECKING et al.
Docket No. R.304542
Preliminary Amdt.

60. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the hollow body (4) has a circular cross section.

61. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the cross section of the hollow body (4) has the form of a regular polygon.

62. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the piezoelectric actuator (1) is disposed in the hollow body (4); and wherein the piezoelectric actuator (1) is stressed in compression by the prestressed hollow body (4).

63. **(New)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the piezoelectric actuator (1) is disposed outside the hollow body (4); and wherein the piezoelectric actuator (1) is stressed in compression by the prestressed hollow body (4).